

THE RIO NEWS.

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VOL. XII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 24TH, 1885

NUMBER 12

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

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Limited Express: Upward, leaves Rio 6.40 a.m.; arriving at Barra 9.49 a.m., Porto Novo (central line) 5.20; Cachoeira (S. Paulo branch) 5.38 p.m. Downward, leaves Cachoeira 7.24 a.m., Porto Novo 6.19 a.m., arriving at Barra 1.32 and 1.58 p.m. Rio 5.58 p.m. Stops at all stations. Connects with Santa Cruz branch at Sapopemba, and Macaco branch at Belém.
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THE RIO NEWS

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of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs
alist of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-
mercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock
quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, and all
other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian
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RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 24th, 1885.

THE political situation remains unsettled and the opposition to Senator Dantas is still active. On the 14th Senator Cruz Machado charged that the ministry was in a crisis and should resign after the vote on Deputy Moreira de Barros' motion; the charge was denied by the minister of the empire, in the absence of the premier. On the 17th Sr. Dantas in replying to Sr. Cruz Machado said that the Senate could neither provoke nor solve ministerial crises and repeated the assertion of the minister of the empire that there was no crisis existing in the ministry, and if there were any other it is in higher regions and only to be solved by the wisdom of the legislature. On the 18th a rumour was current that Senator Silveira Martins had notified the premier, that for the purpose of healing the rupture in the liberal party caused by personal objections, the Rio Grande do Sul deputation would not support the government; but the Senator on the 20th explained that he had not intimated to the premier his withdrawal from place, although he had given him the friendly advice of resigning if he could not secure a majority in the Chamber of Deputies; he considered that the ministry had been defeated and his object was to bring about a compromise; while it was his opinion that the premier should bring about the reform, he did not see that because this was undertaken by one, it could not be carried out by another; he quoted a remark from an evening paper; "Either the Emperor causes a revolution, or the people will" and presented a motion for information as to what steps are to be taken to avoid breaches of the public peace. The premier assented as to the facts stated; that the dissidents did not express opposition to the project but to him personally; they were prepared to exceed the project under another ministry. He repeated that he would only accept defeat on a vote on the project and until this took place would maintain his position. The discussion was continued on the 21st when Senator Silveira da Mota defended the action of the government and declared that only on the project should any vote be considered decisive; he wished the conservatives were called to place, could he be certain they would decide the emancipation question, which he was not, for the liberal governments had not known how to do anything (*não tem sabido fazer nada*). Sr. Silveira Martins defended his motion and made a sharp attack on the press, which he charged was not bought but, as is the case with religious images which are exchanged, was receiving some remuneration

for its support of the government. The minister of the empire replied, and the motion was by leave withdrawn. The Chamber has held no session, the opposition having resolved to meet only for the purpose of electing members. On the 21st the committee report recognizing Dr. Joaquim Nabuco as Deputy was presented; five members voted in favor and four against his election in committee but there was no quorum in the Chamber. The above is a rapid summary of the parliamentary occurrences since our last issue and we have only to add that the opposition to Sr. Dantas' ministry arises, it is generally understood, from the arrangement, charged as made, with the Throne, and as a protest against undue interference by the Crown in legislative functions. The position is certainly complicated. On one hand are the Emperor, the ministry, the greater part of the press and the majority of the people; on the other the conservative Senators and Deputies and the liberal dissidents. Heretofore the people have generally, according to history, been on the side of the legislature, but in this case we see them opposing the action of those who claim to be their representatives, and are supporting the executive. What the result is to be, we can only repeat in the words of the *Journal*; God only knows! From the committee report in Sr. Nabuco's case, appearances lead to a belief that he will not be elected. A conservative member of the committee, a professed emancipationist and representative from Ceará voted against him. The Ceará deputation are certainly distinguishing themselves this session for inconsistency, and disregard of public opinion. While we do not anticipate disturbances, for the nature of the people is contrary to this, still there can be no doubt that the situation is very much strained and one side must shortly give way. Which it is to be, is the question.

From a table we publish in another column, some idea of the reliability of official statistics may be obtained. The sales of coffee for the first quarter of 1885 show an increase of over 400,000 bags, in comparison with the same period of 1884, while the amount of sterling exchange passed shows an increase of only about £100,000 which, if there be deducted the decrease in francs and reichs-marks, becomes reduced to only about £52,000, a sum quite out of proportion to the increase in the quantity of coffee sold even with the most liberal deductions for lower cost. It is perfectly well known that large amounts of exchange are passed which are not officially reported; but the question then arises, of what earthly use are these Brokers' Bulletins? A foreigner desirous of investigating Brazilian commerce and finance would consider the country virtually bankrupt if he took the figures for granted, and from them decided that 400,000 bags of coffee only produced an increased exchange movement of £52,000! We presume also that government operations are not contemplated; but they certainly should be, and there can be no inconvenience in publishing them in the Bulletins, for these are not so very promptly made public that the interests of the Treasury would suffer. It is perfectly heart-rending, an attempt to get up prompt statistics in Rio. We have frequently seen traffic returns of railways in Brazil come back to us from London in the financial papers before they are published in the Rio journals. And the returns of many of the provincial custom houses are so much retarded that for any practical statistic purpose they are perfectly useless. Cannot this matter be corrected in some manner, or is it utterly hopeless to expect the public employé to use more energy in the execu-

tion of his duty? Just at present when Brazilian affairs are attracting great attention, such figures as would promptly show customs and internal revenue receipts would be of great service, but the returns should embrace the whole empire and not be published piece meal. It must be granted to the Rio custom house, and to some others at the principal ports, that commendable promptness is shown, and the curious fact is that those fiscal departments which have the least to do are generally most temiss in doing this least; e. g. the *Diário Oficial* of the 19th publishes the Pernambuco returns showing total receipts of 719,000\$, they are dated March 31st; the same journal publishes the February receipts at Ceará, showing 83,000\$; the table is dated March 21st., then the February receipts at Maranhão are dated March 19; the January receipts of the Piahy custom house 27,000\$, required twenty days for tabulation. Here, we have in the same number of the official journal customs receipts for January, February and March, and the only table that shows any energy on the part of the employés is that from Pernambuco, the most important by far of any.

THE dead-lock we have been witnessing in the Chamber of Deputies has attracted such general attention that a cause for the effect must be sought. That ten dissatisfied liberal members of the Chamber acting in connection with their political opponents could so completely succeed in obstructing parliamentary work needs explanation. The cause seems to us to be found in the last electoral law, and the effect only to be removed by such a modification of this law as will greatly increase the suffrage, to the end that the Chamber of Deputies may more nearly represent the country, and not that very small section of it which it now represents. No law can be so passed that its action may be prophesied to show perfection; experience will show perhaps both short coming and over leaping and as these appear, no time is to be lost in correcting such mistakes as occur. A sincere observer of political affairs in Brazil can not claim that the Chamber of Deputies as at present constituted represents the public opinion of the Empire. The manner in which candidates are elected proves the contrary. The *modus operandi* is for the candidate to issue a circular to the electors of the district he wishes to represent and if possible secure some endorsement of his pretension by the political chiefs of his party; then personal visits to local magnates are made, and if their support be secured, the candidate may calmly and confidently await the result. There is no personal contact with the great mass of the people, no speech-making or attempts at raising enthusiasm; the election contests are generally as flat as possible, and when disturbances do occur, the cause can generally be found in the enmity of local chiefs and the actors are their personal followers. It is no uncommon thing for a candidate for a district in the north, or in the interior, to remain in Rio during the time that would be employed in England or in the United States in actively canvassing his proposed constituency. How can it be claimed that (say) a Deputy from Pará who has never left this capital can represent the public opinion of his district, which opinion he has only heard by proxy; and how can the electors of that district know anything of his opinions save from his circular and the endorsements of personal and political friends, relations, etc? It is manifestly impossible to expect such an improbability. Did the Deputy from Ceará who has come so unfortunately under public notice really represent his district of a free province, he could hardly have fallen into the inconsistency of signing the government project

last session and then signing a contrary motion in the present session. It, therefore, seems clear that the majority of Deputies, of both parties, are not legitimately representatives of public opinion. Another proof of our argument is shown by the professions of the Deputies. Whereas the House of Commons is to a large extent composed of merchants, bankers and manufacturers, our Chamber is almost exclusively formed of lawyers, with an occasional medical man, and a rare planter, unless in combination with the lawyer. It may be replied that we have no manufacturers, bankers or merchants, and to this there is of course no possible answer. There must be however unprofessional men, who are sufficiently interested in commerce and trade to offer themselves as their candidates and the introduction of a few such into the composition of the Chamber could not but be attended with advantage. Politics are made entirely too much a means of support, and the same members being returned again and again, political cabals are easily brought about and personal questions quite as frequently cause the fall of a ministry as political, economic or other principles. We think an extension of the suffrage would go far to correct the present unfortunate state of affairs. Without expecting that the reform we advocate can be secured at any early date, we nevertheless earnestly call attention to it, and ask that if the chiefs are too busy to lend this attention, that one or more of the younger members take it up.

We are always ready to give what space we can to such correspondents as sign their contributions, and we have therefore printed the communication respecting immigration. The greater part of the article is entirely opposed to our ideas, but justice calls for a fair hearing and our readers may judge each for himself. The writer is not always consistent; and we positively deny that an English speaking immigrant would meet the same advantages in Brazil, where it is conceded that language, customs and religion are entirely different from those to which he has been accustomed, as he would find in an English colony, or in the United States. We are persuaded that Brazil is about the last place to which an English or American immigrant should direct his steps. Immigrants from the Latin countries must be the principal supply of labour in the empire for many years to come. Their customs are more or less similar to those they find here; the Portuguese immigrant finds his language, the language of the country, and the Italian or Spaniard can soon adapt his mother-tongue to the dialect of his new home. But for an Anglo-Saxon the matter is entirely different: his ideas of freedom, of religion, of civil rights and privileges all meet with opposition by the law as now written. He cannot register his child's (we suppose him to have gone up country) birth, his son's or his daughter's marriage, or their deaths; he is a political nonentity with no voice in the election of those who lay taxes upon him; he and his sons are utterly debarred by their religion from any place of public character; he is little less than an Indian *pariah*. Under such circumstances what does it avail that land is cheap, game large and small at hand, the raising of fowls and hogs profitable? Our correspondent, in his admiration for what nature has done for the country he so greatly admires, has completely overlooked what man has undone, and this is so serious an error that we cannot allow it to pass uncriticized. We would never be able to forgive ourselves if any publication in our journal induced one single Englishman or American to seek a livelihood as a farmer in Brazil, so long as present laws

regarding naturalization, civil contracts of marriage, and some other less important, but none the less necessary features of life, are unrepented. Our correspondent offers a green old age to the immigrant and cites the instance of a family near Therezopolis. We have yet to learn that the experience of the family referred to has been satisfactory in a financial point of view, and where is the advantage of reaching a green old age without some corresponding improvement in the economic position? That English, Scotch and Irishmen have thrived and grown rich at the River Plate we readily concede; but there the laws are more liberal, the land offers great opportunities for agriculture, grazing and pasturage, and these two latter have been the great sources of Anglo-Saxon success at the Plate. The sections of the province of Rio de Janeiro to which our correspondent refers are however mountainous or are at least decidedly hilly. The plough is rarely or ever available and communication with this city is difficult and where transport is not difficult, it is excessively dear. There is hardly a week passes that complaints are not published that the railway tariffs forbid the cultivation of cereals and such other articles as the small farmer could produce, and yet our correspondent actually invites his fellow countrymen to come out to Brazil, in preference to going to a British colony, or to the United States. It seems quite possible that as civilization advances, the necessary improvements may be made and the empire fitted as a home for the Anglo-Saxon, but it is certainly very far from that desirable condition at present, and if we may venture to advise, we strongly recommend our correspondent to moderate his transports. We readily offer what space we can give for his promised continuation, but beg that his enthusiasm may be tempered by reflection, and comparisons between Brazil, English colonies and the United States abandoned.

SLAVERY.

We venture to translate the following article from the *Jornal do Commercio*, of the 17th inst, on this subject. It is published as a *leader*, and may be naturally considered to represent the most advanced ideas of that important member of the Rio press:

It is said that in the Chamber of Deputies conservatives and malcontents are in league not to admit one single government candidate more, of those whose elections are still awaiting recognition. We have reached a point at which things are done so openly and brazenly that we do not see why we should any longer make a secret of them. Whether there is any understanding or not, (and we are assured that there is not) whether this or some other plan be carried, one thing is certain, the possibility, nay more, the probability of the ministry having to retire without even getting the debate opened on its slavery bill. What will happen afterwards, God only knows.

We are willing to believe in the sincerity of such as reject the bill *in limine*: some will do it in their sober senses, others blinded by political passions, but all will probably be sincere. We say political passions, because every one has heard from their lips, both of conservatives and malcontents, that some oppose the bill from party discipline, and others because they have to complain of Sr. Dantas. It is matter for regret, because in a question which is social, and not political, there should be no appealing to party considerations and still less to personal motives; yet such is the fact, and we have to take things as we find them.

When such is the state of feeling, it is useless to argue, nor have we the presumption to try to dissuade any one from his fixed purpose. We wish, however, while there is still time, to explain with frankness, and without beating about the bush, what we think of this tremendous question; which if imprudently handled may, —not kill the country, for such a country as ours does not die, but— plunge it in disasters the recovery from which will take years and waste the best sap of the nation.

Among the implacable opponents of the bill there is heard one comforting voice: Sr. Dantas will be succeeded by Sr. Saraiva who already has a fresh proposal and a list of his cabinet in his pocket. This may possibly comfort these bitter

toes: but Sr. Saraiva will make none but moderate reforms, and when they afterwards come into power they will find the ground clear of this nettle which could not have failed to sting them from the very first. It may be so, but what certainty is there of it? What pledge has Sr. Saraiva given, or what pledge could he give if called upon?

Sr. Saraiva is not the man to deny his services to his country; but his Ex. may think that the waters are just a little too unruly, may be rather sceptical about protestations of support, and decline to govern with a House in which two or three votes at any time decide the fate of a ministry. If we wish to go forward safely it is necessary that we should provide for all contingencies.

The conservative party also can effect the reform in question. No doubt it can, for it has been a more truly reforming and liberal party than that which arrogates the latter title; but in the present state of things it would have to come into power in the name of a policy which should more or less satisfy public opinion. Where is this policy? Up to now it has offered none but that of quashing the government bill.

Will this policy be indicated by the vote of want of confidence moved by the malcontents in the Chamber of Deputies? The voting of the conservatives may mean merely an act of hostility to a liberal cabinet, a league to overthrow it; but even if it did imply that they adhered to the doctrine of the vote in question, what is the policy of this doctrine? It is lost in the depths of the infinite. There can be nothing more vague, undecided, or cloudy than to say: we do not want emancipation without an indemnity. It embraces everything from the real and efficient indemnity, which the country cannot afford to give, and which would hem us within the limits of a meagre emancipation fund, down to immediate abolition with an obligation on the freedmen of working for six months longer as an indemnity to their former owners. The fact is, that whichever way they may turn, disregarded, honeycombed, out of equilibrium as is our general budget, the emancipation indemnity can only be furnished by the slave-owners themselves, whether as a tax levied on the slaves, or in any other shape; and the entire problem is just how to make this as easy as possible.

What policy is this, then, of the proposed vote of want of confidence? It is a policy which is no policy at all; it is not enough, for we must have something which is humanly appreciable.

They say that Sr. Dantas' proposal is detestable and that he has violently agitated public opinion. Be it so; but the evil is done, public opinion is violently agitated, and now what are these study-wiseacres (*varões prudentes*) going to do? Are they going to tone down the bill, to allay the agitation, or are they going to irritate it and provoke a tremendous explosion?

The fact is that the discussion of this great question has been wrested from the public squares and has been brought before parliament; it is dangerous to thrust it into the streets again. It is all the more dangerous because it is certain, that as this is a question which has to be regarded from two sides—the sentiment of humanity, and social and economic interests,—the public will never be able to regard it but from the sentimental side.

Let us not shut our eyes to the danger; let us provide for the worst, and then we shall not be taken by surprise. In the presence of what we cannot but consider political obstinacy, we will state all that we fear from it. If any ministry, whether liberal or conservative, were to rise to power on the ruins of the present bill and of the hopes of so many people, on what elements could it rely to repress any disturbance of public order? The Brazilian soldier, who never flinched under the fire of the savage and warlike hosts of Paraguay, might well feel his rifle tremble in his hands were it aimed at the breast of brothers whose cry was Liberty for all!

Such will not, but such might, happen, and that should be quite enough to put us on our guard. Shall we run risks so great and so uncertain for the sake of a handful of wretched slaves, over 60 years of age?

But the principle, they say, the principle of the thing! But what is the good of talking about principle when amongst the opponents of the bill are so many who admit the State's taxing the value of the slave for a new registration? Can the State then impose the value of 400\$ for a slave of 40 years of age, 200\$ for one of 50, and is it to be unable to say that the slave of 60 is worth nothing? We must confess that we do not comprehend the objection.

They say too: if to-day we are going to free the slaves of 60 years of age, next year we shall have to free those of 50; we shall no longer feel safe. Just so; but where is the plan that offers perfect security? They want the gradual depreciation of the slave's value in the inverse ratio of his increasing age. Very good: but when this depreciation has been fixed this year in the proportion of 10,

what is to prevent it from going to 20 next year, afterwards 30, etc? Where is the security?

For us, however, the question is not even of sexagenarian slaves; it is simply that if the government proposal be defeated, something may remain to replace it by which the ministry which succeeds may come into power. This is curious; it is said that this state of uncertainty is ruining and exhausting the country, and that it must be stopped as soon as possible. Meanwhile the only way they can think of, is not to help to do something, but to prevent anything from being done. On the part of those who really want nothing to be done, of those who think that the law of 28th Sept. is enough, —if not too much— this conduct is logical; on the part of the others, quite the reverse.

For anything to be done the first essential is a point of departure, a basis for discussion; well, frankly speaking, it seems to us that the government proposal is as good as any other for the purpose. Let it be discussed, amended, substituted, if they like; and if the government proposal is defeated, there will remain the proposal which defeated it; at all events something will remain, and the public will know what it is, that is proposed to be done.

Sr. Saraiva is preferred to Sr. Dantas, and he has a counter proposal ready? Very good: take advantage of Sr. Saraiva's leading idea, offer it as an amendment to the leading idea of the 1st article stated in Sr. Dantas' bill, and if Sr. Saraiva's proposal gains the day, he will come into power by right of it, and carry it out.

If it is not Sr. Saraiva's proposal, let it be somebody else's; anything may be acceptable, but what is not, is this positive blank. The blank is the unknown, and at the present juncture the unknown is fraught with peril. If there is not prudence, nay self-denial on the part of many, we may drag the country into a frightful cataclysm.

Then too there are those who state that they are ready to vote for the same bill if brought in by Sr. Saraiva, but not by Sr. Dantas, who does not inspire political confidence. This is parliamentary, but these questions of personal confidence are best left for normal times; just now much higher interests are at stake.

For our part the question is concisely limited to this: if they have no fears for the public peace, or if, should it be imperilled, they consider themselves strong enough to restore it promptly, and consider that they are defending greater interests than those which may suffer in the struggle, let them go on their way, free and undisturbed by misgivings, each inspired by his own conscience. But if this sense of security is wanting to them, let them reflect that by ceaselessly preaching that emancipation is a personal question of the Emperor's they have only fanned the flame of that propaganda which if it one short year ago almost took possession of this city, will to-day brave everything if it supposes itself to be backed by the support of the Crown (which is a force), by that of the majority of the press, (also a force), and by that of so many eminent men which are worth another force still; let them reflect, and let them listen to the dictates of prudence.

We do not advocate abolition in the present difficult circumstances of the country; and it is because we dread it, it is that it may not be effected illegally, that we beg for moderation and for concessions lawfully made; made too while there is yet time. Having thus fulfilled our duty, which can only be that of warning and advice, we shall never encourage disorder, though we may suffer from the consequences of it in common with all. Should we succumb, an hour sooner or an hour later, the death of the individual weighs nothing in the destinies of humanity: the country will not die.

This is strong language and the article, as might have been expected has created considerable sensation here. The *Jornal*, always circumspect (to a fault at times) has shown up the gulf to which the country is rapidly drifting through the cabals of a very few politicians. No language that we, foreigners, could use would furnish a clearer statement that if civil war be not imminent, it is possible and we have therefore allowed a native to explain the position.

Communicated.

BRAZILIAN IMMIGRATION.

In the province of Rio de Janeiro are tracts of well watered and wooded lands, with an European climate averaging between 55° and 75° degrees Fahrenheit — unsurpassed for magnificent scenery and within reasonable distances of railways and markets. When I say reasonable distances, I mean nearer to civilization than in many other countries in respect to land of equal price and quality and perfectly well adapted to European constitutions.

As a proof of this I can cite a "patriarch" known to most English residents in Rio. He came to

Brazil in 1835 a middle aged man and after various vicissitudes settled in Therezopolis with his wife and family; his boys of from 45 to 50 as well as the father and mother look as though they were just arrived from Somersetshire; their descendants are numerous enough, and all engaged in agriculture and well to do.

The old lady works resolutely in her garden of which she has reason to be proud and is able to supply the table with any amount of green peas, asparagus, strawberries, and potatoes of a very large size and superior quality.

The district referred to is situated to the north of the capital, about 100 miles from east to west and 50 from north to south and includes the Organ mountains with three parallel ridges running from east to west.

The western limit may be considered the Dom Pedro II railway: it is traversed by the high road "União e Indústria," the Cantagallo railway, and an old abandoned high road which crosses it diagonally from the formerly flourishing towns of Iguaçu and Estrella to S. Fidelis and Campos.

The mountain towns of Petropolis, Therezopolis and Nova Friburgo with their surroundings represent but a very small proportion of this territory; the rest is nearly in the same state as it was in the time of the first invaders, Cabral and Villegaignon. In fact the present writer has failed to trace even the smallest path from Nova Friburgo to the river Parahyba leading towards the east; if ever such a road existed as people say, it is now entirely obliterated.

The best way of seeing this part of the country is to take the small steamers, that touch at the island of Paqueta, to Piedade thence to Therezopolis descending the borders of the river Paqueta, which is one series of cascades, for about 30 miles and then strike into the old road already mentioned *via* Pão, Soumidoiro and Carmo, to Sta. Rita, a pretty little town about 10 miles to the north of the city of Cantagallo, situated on a railway called the "Barão de Nova Friburgo" which connects the Cantagallo railway and the river Parahyba at a place called Aldeia, and from which by means of the S. Antonio de Padua railway and a 6 hours river voyage through delightful scenery, you reach the celebrated city of Campos, the most important town in the province; in fact superior to any other in Brazil, not being the capital of a province.

A person leaving his own country either from necessity, or from the natural desire which all have of owning a piece of this earth, does not wish, if possible, to exile himself altogether from the occasional pleasures of a city, yet he has to do so entirely in any land known as an emigration field, simply because he can not buy land in any country so near a city as these lands are—for anything like the same money—neither can he secure such advantages, as can be offered him here.

The healthiest and finest climate, unrivalled scenery and under a safe and free government, with no direct taxation to speak of, is as tempting as anything offered in the United States or New Zealand. On the other side, there are different customs among the people likely to be neighbours, differences of religion (or rather none at all), but at all events they need not fear "bigotry" such as, if they came in contact with English or Irish Catholics, and above all of course, the language. This however is soon acquired.

The reason why land is so cheap in proportion to its production is due in part to slavery, but principally to the old feudal sentiment which exists in all countries where the struggle for absolute food, has not reached the proportions attained in the old countries of Europe—notably in the highlands of Scotland past and present, where a poor chief was encumbered with any amount of ragged retainers, the same land heavily weighted by taxation, increased luxury among the few and increased poverty among the many. In this case the land almost worthless rises to an enormous value.

Very few proprietors have titles, so it would never do to un-earth this question, the only remedy now being to make the owner declare what he possesses, make him pay land-tax per acre, cultivated or uncultivated, consequently all the land he can not pay tax for, would revert to the state in course of time and the value of land would be doubled at once.

Leaving the remedy in the hands of those whom it may concern.

The very finest land in the district I name, can be purchased with a secured title at about £3 30 acre, with water power, timber for construction and good clay for bricks and tiles.

Say: a lot of 60 acres, with 100 braças [225 yards] frontage on the river Paqueta;

Cost	£180.0.0
Documents	2.0.0
Copy	10.0.0
Extras	2.10.0.0
	185.0.0
Plan and survey	15.0.0
	£200.0.0

An Englishman with a small capital could live and enjoy life here, as well as anywhere else; thanks to the indirect taxation exclusively or nearly exclusively adopted by this government, his quarter days would be real holidays, and if he still wishes to keep up old English customs, he need not see in the Michaelmas goose an income tax-gatherer.

In comparison with the United States all live stock such as pigs, sheep and poultry fetch very high prices proportionate to the cost of rearing, therefore more attention ought to be given to small farming, as in France and Italy, than in attempts to produce for exportation such articles as cotton and coffee. A few coffee trees, however, are not to be despised, but they should not be considered in the first place. Should the proposed emigrant be a sportsman, he will find a considerable quantity of small game, and even some good sized leopards, still existing and destined by Providence to provide for his amusement.

Transport is not a great difficulty and railways are advancing in all directions.

Verdant groves, perpetual fountains, a delightfully sunny climate with moderate breezes, and above all, cool nights he certainly will find, almost realizing the ideal of the ancient poets; he must however put in the nymphs or satyrs according to his means or wishes.

The manner in which a small capital might be applied to the best advantage will be the subject of another paper should the Editor have space as well as inclination at his command.

W. J. L.

Statist March 28.

WAR AND TRADE.

As the dispute between this country and Russia becomes more serious, and active war preparations are being made both at home and in India, people are naturally asking,—"What would be the effect of a great war upon trade? The first effect, doubtless, would be adverse. Already, indeed, the apprehensions excited are increasing the commercial depression. No one knows what may happen, and each is preparing for the worst. There are fears, too, that the Money Market would be disturbed were hostilities to break out; and doubtless there would be a crisis in the Money Market, and also in the Stock Markets. But as soon as the first shock was over, trade would speedily accommodate itself to the altered circumstances, and an eager demand would arise for the productions of certain industries. War on the scale anticipated would necessitate the issue of considerable loans, British and Indian, and would compel the Government to charter a large number of ships for the despatch of troops to India, and of all the *multitude* of war. It would also render necessary a great addition both to the Army and Navy; and it would give rise to an immediate demand for everything necessary to put a large army in the field, and to maintain it there in efficiency. One of the first measures that would be taken, as a matter of course, would be to call out the Militia and to add very materially to the Army; while all the Regular troops available would be sent to Kurrachee, and pressed forward thence to Afghanistan. Supposing that 50,000 men were sent in this way to India, and that recruiting were to be carried on at the rate required to maintain so considerable an army in the field; and supposing also that the whole of the Militia, as well as the Reserves, were called out—the mere addition to the Army and Navy would take out of the Labour Market between two and three hundred thousand able-bodied men. This alone would go far to put an end to all labour disputes. Just now there are apprehensions of labour disputes on a very great scale; and it is quite clear that if peace be preserved, and if prices remain as low as they are, disputes must occur sooner or later. But labour disputes on a great scale would disorganize the whole trade of the country, and might give rise to very serious rioting. The calling out of so many men for the Army, Navy, and Militia would deplete the Labour Market to such an extent that masters would rather be inclined to increase than to lower wages, and thus labour disputes on a great scale need not be apprehended.

At the same time, the chartering of the ships necessary to send a great army to India, and to keep the army properly reinforced and supplied with everything necessary for its efficiency in the field, would still further ease the Labour Market and would at once raise freight, thus putting an end to the depression, which has weighed so long upon the shipping trade. Furthermore, the Government would have to give—*in direct* for men-of-war of all kinds, and for torpedo-boats. The dockyards would probably for some months at least, be fully employed in making ready for sea ships already built and now laid-up. New ships could be constructed only in private dockyards, and the orders of the Government would thus give employment to the building-yards throughout the country, and at once infuse life and energy into the shipbuilding trade. Shipbuilding on a great scale,

as well as the provision of ammunition, arms, and the like, would give an impetus to the iron trade, and to the coal trade; and if once activity were imparted to the shipbuilding, shipowning, and iron and coal trades, we should see a general revival of industry all over the country. It is well known how the prosperity of any great industry transmits itself from industry to industry, until the whole commercial community shares in the prosperity that at first was enjoyed by only a single industry. In the case we are assuming, however, three of the greatest industries of the country would at once be set working in great activity; and the influence of the three, therefore, would be immediate and considerable. The great loans that would be brought out would, at the same time, impart activity to the Money Market, and enrich large numbers of persons who would be immediately inclined to employ their profits in productive enterprises of various kinds. The increase of investments, too, would have a stimulating effect upon all producers. Owing to the steady and long-continued diminution of first-class investments, the return from money employed has been growing less and less for several years. A great war, however, by leading to the creation of fresh securities, would change this; and by increasing the return from money invested, would increase the incomes of investors, and give them, therefore, a larger margin out of which to spare. No doubt taxation would increase also; but the increase in the public burdens would hardly be so great as the increase in the value of money; and therefore, the incentive to enterprise would be greater than any check imposed by additional taxation.

We are assuming in all that we have said that the supremacy of this country at sea would be undisputed; that we should sweep not only the fleets, but the cruisers of our enemies from the waters; and that our flag would be safe and our supplies of all kinds unmolested. It is possible, of course, that some hostile fleet would be able to keep the seas, cruisers might be fitted out and might prey upon our commerce; that war risks would, therefore, become very heavy; and that, consequently, many ships would be transferred from the British to some neutral flag. It is hardly likely, however, if the war were confined to this country and Russia, that anything of the kind would occur. Russian seamen hardly have the enterprise to make the sea really dangerous to this country. Our shipbuilding resources are so great, and the courage, dash, and enterprise of our sailors so well proved, that any cruisers which might be fitted out under the Russian flag would very soon, we think, be settled with; while, as we observe elsewhere, the "Alabama" decision closes neutral ports to Russian cruisers. It is only in the case that the war were to spread, and that countries with a large supply of good sailors were opposed to us, that any risk of this kind would really be run. Still, the risk must not be lost sight of. It is the one thing that makes a great war dangerous to this country. Our wealth and commerce are so great, our Empire so vast and so spread over the world, that scarcely any war, however successful it may be, can compensate us for the sacrifices we shall have to make. We covet no gains, and, therefore, whatever gains we may make will weigh lightly against our certain losses. But if the Empire is attacked, it must, of course, be defended with the whole strength we can bring to bear; and wise policy would enjoin that we should at once take the offensive, and deal such blows against our adversary as would disable him from repeating the attack for a generation at least. If this policy were pursued—if the war were prosecuted so vigorously that no great maritime Power would be tempted to enter the lists against us—we need hardly fear serious damage to our shipping; and if we escaped that risk, the immediate effects of war would be, as we have said, to stimulate many of the most important industries in the country, and to produce, therefore, a temporary prosperity. The prosperity, of course, would be based upon a false foundation—it would be based, that is, upon the destruction of wealth—and it would be followed by a collapse of longer or shorter duration; but for a time, unquestionably, the effect of a great war would be to relieve the Labour Market, and to give activity to the shipping, the iron, and the coal industries.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

Standard

—The Rosario Railway will be inaugurated to Buraleri on May Day, and completed to Rosario in October next.

—Every day the political excitement engendered by the Presidential election grows fiercer, and it will be the next thing to a miracle if a row is avoided. The latest rumour is that some superior officers of the army hold heterodox political opinions and will shortly be replaced in their commands. Nothing more likely.

—Argentine paper-dollars are current at Asuncion for 76 cents of Paraguayan money.

—No stronger proof could be had of the soundness of our market than the fact that not a single failure has occurred since the suspension of specie payments on the 9th January. In these 3 months, since elapsed, the gold premium has risen steadily, having reached last week 65 per cent. At present it ranges between 50 and 60.

—As soon as Congress meets, next month, we may expect a further increase of the ponderous import duties, which average 26 per cent. on the total value of imported merchandise, the President having declared at Mendoza that Protection is the only remedy for existing ills. Some duties already exceed 100 per cent. *ad valorem*.

—All true friends of the country rejoice to see that the conviction that some of the State Railways must be sold, as the first genuine step to save it from ruin, is rapidly gaining ground; and there is a strong hope entertained that the new Finance Minister will rise to the situation and do what is obviously the first and best thing to be done under the serious circumstances of the case. Several months ago, when things were beginning to look unpleasant, we urged the expediency of selling the State Railways, the stupendous outlay on which has been the main cause of present financial woes. Some people say that the railways cannot be sold, as they are pledged for the loans raised to make them; but this is a difficulty easily overcome.

—The trade returns for the past quarter, of the B. Ayres Custom House, compare with those of 1884 as follows:—

	1884.	1885.
Imports.....	14,713,000	19,308,000
Exports.....	19,375,000	23,003,000

As the valuation has been raised 15 per cent on account of the fall in paper-money the figures for the past quarter are really equivalent to \$16,820,000 for imports, and \$20,002,000 for exports, being an increase of 14 per cent in imports and 3 per cent exports, over the same quarter of 1884.

Itedat

—The Capital Lottery has produced during the last quarter the sum of \$126,425.93 m/n.

—The exports of wool from Rosario during March were 4,595 bales, and 28,929 hides.

—The Riachuelo improvement works committee have asked for \$200,000 m/n towards the construction of the works.

—The Montevideo Custom House received during the month of March \$629,724 for import duties, and \$113,349 for export duties.

—The construction of the telegraph line between San José de Metan and El Federal, in the province of Entre-Rios, will be suspended on account of the financial difficulty.

—So far there is no policy, plan, or settled determination with regard to financial administration. We are drifting, helpless and rudderless, on to the rocks of disaster.

—Murders, robbery and highwaymen are becoming alarmingly common in the South, especially in the partido of Olavarría; in fact, these occupations seem to be the safest and most profitable.

—It is stated that the Minister of Finance will raise an internal loan on security of the National lands, valued at \$1,000 m/n per league, on similar conditions to those of the loan which was obtained for the General Roca's expedition to the Pampa in 1879.

—Owing to the friendly intervention of General Osborn, the United States Minister, the National Government has agreed that the guarantee granted by Congress to the railway from Concepcion to Concordia shall be paid in gold.

The works will be commenced within six months.

—The money which has been spent on the official visit to Mendoza would have been more usefully applied in completing the new filters at the Recoleta. It is desirable that the water should be made fit to drink, because few of us will be able, much longer, to afford to drink anything else.

—During last month (March) there were 699 deaths in the city, of which 443 bodies were buried in the Chacarita cemetery and 255 in the Cemetery del Norte. The causes of death were: bronchitis 18, consumption 31, croup 13, brain diseases 28, defective organization 48, scarlatina 13, intestinal 38, pneumonia 43, meningitis 41, pulmonary complaints 28, small-pox 31, still-born 45, etc.

—We note the following custom house receipt during March. San Nicolás, 31.831.85\$ m/n; Bahía Blanca, 15.635.37 id; Uruguay, 1.296.46 id; Colon, 1.886.54 id; Rosario, 331.074.74 id; Ituzaingó 91.25 id; La Paz, 3027.94 id; Vindma. 225.75 id; Goya 5.464.78 id; Santa Fe, 10.262.50 id; Paraná 14.477.23 id; Diamante, 526.54 id; Salta, 528.48 id; San Juan, 718.77; Bella-Vista, 3.369.11 id.

—The Buenos Aires Custom house receipts during last quarter amount to \$6,459,996.49; compared with other years the receipts were as follows:

In 1879.....	\$m/n	3,671,595.50
1880.....	"	3,588,452.91
1881.....	"	4,114,981.90
1882.....	"	4,450,098.17
1883.....	"	4,729,405.83
1884.....	"	5,599,562.71
1885.....	"	6,459,996.49

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The March receipts of the Marulham custom house were 140,404\$865.

—The Ceará custom house receipts in March were 74,866\$290.

—The Niterohy tramway has been sold for, it is said, 700,000\$. The purchasers assume all liabilities.

—The Pará custom house receipts in March were 504,172\$857, against 946,177\$798 in March 1884, and 920,879\$530 for the same month of 1883.

—The Victoria, Espirito Santo, savings bank received in March 7,802\$ and paid 5,113\$439. The balance due depositors is not given.

—Illuminations are not dear at Victoria, Espirito Santo. The illumination of the palace of the president of the province on the 25th ult cost \$4800, six packages of candles being consumed.

—There does not seem to be much anxiety to take hold of the Santos harbour improvement works. The time for presenting bids is extended for sixty days.

—If our colleague of the *Diario de Santos* be correct the str. *Orion* that sailed hence for Falmouth f.o. carried the champion coffee cargo. Our colleague puts it at 147,537 bags!

—A former slave, the mother of a boy by her master, who dying left his fortune to the child, has just fallen heirless to this fortune estimated to be 400,000\$ by the death of the child. The S. Paulo papers are our authority, and they say the boy died in Paris where he was being educated.

—The Paranaenses were to vote for the prettiest girl there and the elected candidate to receive a prize. The number of votes cast was 3,422, of which one candidate received 1,956, a very considerable plurality. The name of the queen of Pará beauty is not published.

—The *Diario Popular*, S. Paulo, of the 17th says that the *sub-delegado* of police of a place called Sapucaia offered the commandant of the police detachment 50\$ if he would have a certain party well thrashed and he would further defend him if called up by law!!!

—The *Folha Nova* of the 22nd says that on the 25th, 12 slaves are to be emancipated by the fifth quota of the fund in Barbacena, Rio de Janeiro and that as many more might have been, for there are some who are valued at 1,000\$, 1,200\$ and 1,600\$. This is positively scandalous.

—The *Diario Popular* of April 15th says, that it is informed that among the immigrants recently arrived in S. Paulo are some, who after having received the premium from the provincial (S. Paulo) government as immigrants are now trying to get to Santos, with the purpose of proceeding to the River Plate.

—The quantities and official values of rubber and other exports for January and February from Pará are given as follows.

	1885	1884	1883
Rubber kilos	3,744,035	2,196,500	1,634,249
Value	7,175,811\$864	5,872,900\$593	5,370,193\$88
All other do.	186,496.768	353,500.764	300,180.286
	7,362,308\$632	6,227,401\$567	5,670,374\$124

RAILROAD NOTES

—The January traffic receipts of the Dom Pedro II railway were 921,142\$024 and expenses 563,737\$518.

—In February the traffic receipts of the Great Western of Brazil railway were 41,414\$660 and expenses 30,148\$730.

—The February traffic receipts of the "Recife ao S. Francisco" railway were 120,698\$410 and expenses were 69,330\$329.

—The traffic receipts of the Great Western of Brazil for January left a balance of 16,548\$530; receipts being 58,976\$880 and expenses 42,431\$350.

—The *Gazeta de Noticias* of the 18th says the minister of agriculture has authorized the director of the Dom Pedro II railway to reduce the freight on sugar cane to 20 reis per ton per 100 kilometres. Seems cheap enough.

—At the general meeting of the shareholders of the Rio Claro, S. Paulo, railway on the 19th a dividend of 10 per cent. was declared and the directors authorized to raise the capital for the second section of Jabú branch. The February traffic receipts were 36,905\$790 and expenses 16,343\$930.

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